

bells went off. They said: Bomb threat, bomb threat; evacuate, evacuate. Everybody started running. I had not made my speech yet, so I stood up. It is kind of eerie when you are the only person in the Capitol and giving a speech. Of course, there was nobody here, and the cameras were still going.

I remember, after finishing my speech, I looked down at the bottom of the stairs and saw a very large man walking out. I went down and I said: Ted, we better get out; this place might blow up.

He said: Well, JIM, these old legs don't work like they used to.

I said: Let me help you. It happened, by the way, this was right after the American Conservative Union came out with the ratings where I was the No. 1 most conservative Member of the Senate and he was the second from the most liberal Member of the Senate. I said: Let me help you. I put my arm around his waist and he put his arm around my arm. Someone took a picture. It ended up on the front page of a magazine. The caption was: "Who Says Conservatives are Not Compassionate?" That is the kind of relationship we had. I will always remember this.

He did things that people are not expected to do. There was a show—they don't have it on television anymore—called "Crossfire." Some might remember that. It was an aggressive program, where you get two people debating each other on an issue. The issue that particular day—this was back in 2000—was Vieques. Vieques is an island off Puerto Rico. They were trying to shut it down. They were successful. I don't blame it on the Democrats or Republicans. President Bush went along with Al Gore and closed down the live range at Vieques, which was the only place the Navy and marines could do integrated training.

I was actually debating Bobby Kennedy—he was his nephew—on the "Crossfire" show. It was one of these things where I really knew the issue. I knew I had him on this debate. It came down to the end, and I could have put the knife in at that time. I didn't have the heart to do it.

I was sitting, Madam President, where you are sitting the next day, presiding over the Senate, and Ted Kennedy came up. He said: Well, JIM, I came up to say thank you.

Thank you for what?

He said: I was watching this debate you had last night, and I knew what you were thinking and I knew that you had won this thing and right at the last you could have inflicted great harm to Bobby. You elected not to do it. I want to tell you I appreciate it very much.

That was Senator Kennedy.

There are things still going on today to which he committed his life. We are going to win some of those, and we are going to rejoice when that happens. He will be right here with us.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CBO SCORES

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, the Congressional Budget Office has issued its report on the Finance Committee legislation. That bill was sent over to the Congressional Budget Office a couple days ago. The report is quite promising. The report is good news.

Our balanced approach in the Finance Committee to health reform has paid off once again. Today, the Congressional Budget Office confirmed that America's Healthy Future Act—that is the legislation in the Finance Committee—remains fully paid for and reduces the Federal deficit. In fact, it reduces the deficit by \$81 billion in the first 10 years.

CBO also says in its report that the legislation continues to reduce the deficit in the second 10 years; that is, it bends the cost curve in the second 10 years as well.

More important, it improves and expands health care coverage for tens of millions of American families. That is done by raising the coverage rate of 83 percent to 94 percent. In fact, that might be a slight increase from what we earlier anticipated in the committee bill.

This legislation, I believe, is a smart investment on the Federal balance sheet. It is an even smarter investment for American families, businesses, and our economy. Health reform will modernize the health care system for America for the 21st century. It is about time we got to that point.

The bill also reduces inefficiencies and focuses on quality and ensures we are getting the best bang for our health care buck.

Health care reform should be fiscally responsible as it expands and improves coverage. CBO confirms the legislation does that.

I am very pleased with that report. It will help us move toward the next steps in merging the bill with the HELP Committee bill.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, may I ask the Chair what is the pending amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending amendment is the amendment offered by Senator VITTER, No. 2644.

Mr. COBURN. I thank the Chair.

Madam President, I just walked out of a hearing on the census, and the Vitter amendment applies to that. It is interesting. We send a million forms out a year called the American Community Survey, and in that survey we ask people whether they are citizens of the United States. And you know what, they answer it. They give an answer to that. And that is a million of those we send out every year.

We are about to conduct a census that ignores the Constitution and will, in fact, disrupt the true allocation of apportionment in this country because the census we are getting ready to ask will ignore whether you are a true citizen of this country. Legal or otherwise, it will ignore that. It will ignore whether you have voting rights, whether you are here properly, whether you have broken our laws and are here improperly, and we will see a maldistribution to the tune of 10 seats in States that shouldn't have them and States that should have 10 more seats won't have them. And that is based on the Census data this year.

So what Senator VITTER is offering is a response to following the Constitution and also recognizing that we are getting ready to do a census next year that is going to get it wrong. My hope is that my colleagues will consider very carefully that they took an oath to defend the Constitution, and that Constitution speaks very clearly—in this little book—about what the enumeration is supposed to be. It is about citizens of the United States, not residents of the United States. If, in fact, we do this the way it looks like we are going to, what we will be doing is changing our Constitution. What we are actually going to do is we are just going to throw our Constitution down and step on it.

So he is not asking anything from a racial standpoint or anything other than for a fair enumeration by which the Census agrees that if they were to do it properly, they would need to ask that question. They have printed 100 million forms already, and the question is, Do we want to waste that money and throw those forms out? Well, there is an answer to that. All you have to do is put in an insert, and here is question No. 11. That will cost very little money and then we will actually have a true census based on what the Constitution says, not on what we think might politically benefit one State over another.

Madam President, I know the chairman of the Finance Committee is here and would like to make a unanimous consent request, and I will yield to him at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3631

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, unless the Senate acts soon, millions of seniors and disabled individuals will face sharply higher Medicare premiums next year. In this great recession, we